

AN ACT

relating to grants for emergency assistance under the rural volunteer fire department assistance program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 614.102, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(a) The Texas A&M Forest Service shall administer the program established under this subchapter, and the director may adopt rules necessary to assist volunteer fire departments in paying for equipment, including the replacement or repair of equipment, and training of personnel, including by providing emergency assistance under Section 614.103(a-1).

(c) The director shall:

(1) determine reasonable criteria and qualifications for the distribution of money from the volunteer fire department assistance fund, including:

(A) the frequency, size, and severity of past wildfires in a volunteer fire department's jurisdiction; ~~and~~

(B) the potential for loss or damage to property resulting from future wildfires in the department's jurisdiction; and

(C) the department's need for emergency assistance under Section 614.103(a-1); and

1 (2) establish a procedure for reporting and processing
2 requests for money from the fund.

3 (h) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, at
4 least 10 percent of appropriations for a state fiscal year from the
5 fund for the purpose of providing assistance to volunteer fire
6 departments under the program is allocated for providing emergency
7 assistance under Section 614.103(a-1). If the amount of assistance
8 requested under Section 614.103(a-1) in a state fiscal year is less
9 than the amount allocated under this subsection, the remaining
10 amount may be used for other types of requests for assistance.

11 SECTION 2. Section 614.103, Government Code, is amended by
12 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

13 (a-1) A volunteer fire department whose equipment is
14 damaged or lost in responding to a declared state of disaster under
15 Section 418.014 in an area subject to the declaration may submit a
16 request for emergency assistance from the fund for:

17 (1) the replacement or repair of damaged or lost
18 personal protective equipment or other firefighting equipment; and

19 (2) the purchase of a machine to clean personal
20 protective equipment.

21 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
22 of this Act, the director of the Texas A&M Forest Service shall
23 adopt rules as necessary to implement Subchapter G, Chapter 614,
24 Government Code, as amended by this Act.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3070 was passed by the House on April 18, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 132, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3070 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor